





NEW JERSEY SUPREME COURT

Justices							
Confidence Score	Mild Republican	Mild Democrat	Mild Republican	Mild Republican	Mild Democrat	Indeterminate	Mild Republican
Opinion Partners				✓	✓		
Dissenting Minority				✓	✓	✓	
Determining Majority	✓	✓	✓				✓
Lone Dissenter		✓			✓		

- ▶ Number of justices: **7**
- ▶ Number of cases: **43**
- ▶ Percentage of cases with a unanimous ruling: **74.4% (32)**
- ▶ Justice most often writing the majority opinion: **Justice Jaynee LaVecchia (8)**
- ▶ Per curiam decisions: **8**
- ▶ Concurring opinions: **2**
- ▶ Justice with most concurring opinions: **Justice Anne Patterson (1) and Justice Barry Albin (1)**
- ▶ Dissenting opinions: **12**
- ▶ Justice with most dissenting opinions: **Justice Barry Albin (6)**

COURT CONTENTION

Opinion partners

In 2020, the New Jersey Supreme Court decided three cases 5-2. Justices Albin and LaVecchia dissented together more frequently than any justices on the court: twice in split decisions and once in a case decided 5-2. In our Ballotpedia Court: State Partisanship study, Justice LaVecchia recorded a Mild Republican Confidence Score and Justice Albin recorded a Mild Democratic Confidence Score.

Dissenting minority

In 2020, the New Jersey Supreme Court decided two cases by split decision. In

both of those cases, Justices Albin and LaVecchia were in the dissent. They were joined once by Justice Timpone and once by Justice Solomon. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study, Justice LaVecchia recorded a Mild Republican Confidence Score, Justice Albin recorded a Mild Democratic Confidence Score, Justice Solomon recorded a Mild Republican Confidence Score, and Justice Timpone recorded an Indeterminate Confidence Score.

Determining majority

In the two cases decided by split decision, Justices Rabner, Paterson, and Fernandez-Vina were in the majority. They were joined by Justice Solomon in one case. Another case was decided as a true split decision (3-3) because Justice Timpone did not participate; this resulted in the holding of the appellate court being affirmed. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study, Justice Rabner recorded a Mild Democratic Confidence Score, Justice Patterson recorded a Mild Republican Confidence Score, Justice Fernandez-Vina recorded a Mild Republican Confidence Score, and Justice Solomon recorded a Mild Republican Confidence Score.

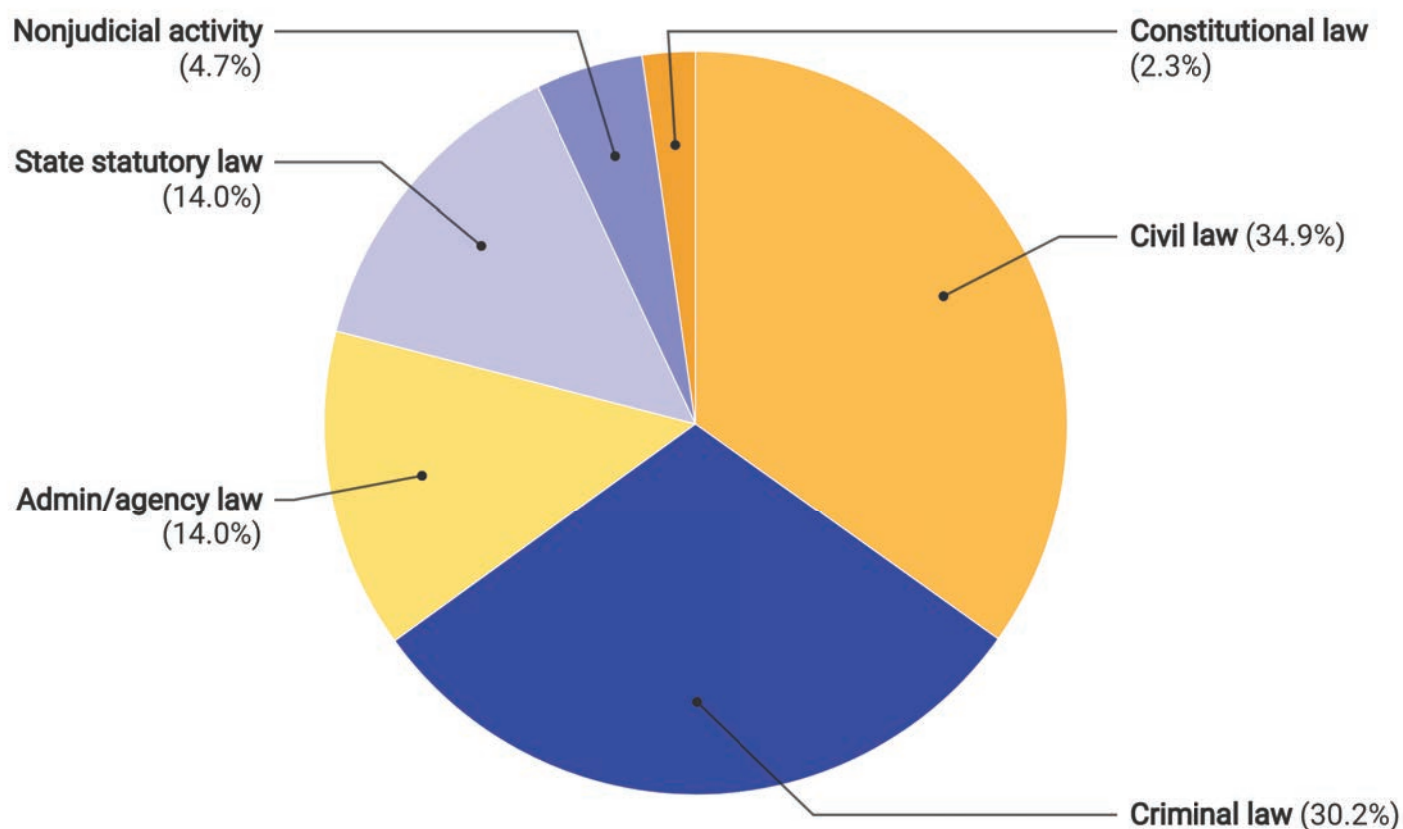
Lone dissenter

In 2020, there was a lone dissenter in four cases before the New Jersey Supreme Court. Justices Albin and Rabner were each lone dissenters twice. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study, Justices Albin and Rabner both recorded a Mild Democratic Confidence Score.

COURT JURISDICTION

The New Jersey Supreme Court is an appellate court with no original jurisdiction. The court may hear appeals if the case involves a constitutional question, if a judge in the appellate division dissented, if capital punishment is used, if the court granted certification, or if the case involves redistricting. The court also has administrative power over the state's courts and attorneys.

Case types decided by New Jersey Supreme Court, 2020



BALLOTPEDIA

The most common case category heard by the New Jersey Supreme Court in 2020 was civil cases. Of the 43 cases it heard, 15 were civil cases, or 34.9 percent of its total caseload for the year. A civil case is one that involves a dispute between two parties, one of whom seeks reparations or damages.

The second most common cases that reached the supreme court were criminal law cases. A criminal case involves a final criminal appeal before the court of last resort. The New Jersey Supreme Court heard 13 criminal cases in 2020, or 30.2 percent of its total caseload for the year.

The third most common cases that reached the court were administrative law cases and state statutory law cases. An administrative law case first proceeds from an administrative law court or involves the enforcement of an administrative regulation. A state statutory case involves the violation or enforcement of a state statute. The New Jersey Supreme Court heard 6 cases, or 14.0 percent of its total caseload for the year, in each category in 2020.